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(December 20, 1960 — December 20, 1969)

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PLAF onset against the enemy

WHEN a tree stands up to the most violent squalls, it is because it is deeply rooted in the soil where it grows. It is the same with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. For nine years, the US has been vainly trying, with most formidable means, to crush it in the military field and drown its voice on the political and diplomatic planes. The NFL continues to grow and to assert itself more and more firmly as the only viable political and military force in face of a deteriorating administration in Saigon. By quite a natural evolution it has become the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam whose delegates are now facing in Paris the representatives of the US and whose organs at all levels are effectively running 3/5 of the territory.

THE secret of that extraordinary vitality lies first in the legitimacy of the NFL and PRG. They were born on the day when the South Viet Nam people, aware of the threat posed to national independence, peace and daily freedoms by the US imperialists' plots and ambitions, rose up and continued the patriotic and popular resistance which had got the better of French colonialism and set up a democratic regime over a vast territory. This second resistance (anti-US) is heir to the first one just as that one had taken over all the national and popular aspirations not yet fulfilled by

FROM THE SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. TO THE P.R.G.

former movements. For two millenaries, Viet Nam's history has been an uninterupted succession of fierce struggles for national independence. For a century, the fight against colonialism has been the epicentre of national life and the present effort against US neo-colonialism is within the framework of a necessary and irretrievable historical development.

Though the founding of the NFL occurred in 1960, its origins are very remote. South Viet Nam evolution cannot be understood if one does not remember the darkest period from 1954 to 1960 when Ngo Dinh Diem, armed and advised by the US, ruled by terror over the country. Implementing the Geneva agreements, the people's armed forces were regrouped to the North and the South Viet Nam people found themselves defenceless in face of an insupportable enemy. Washington was well aware that the routine neo-colonialist tricks, the grandiloquent speeches on freedom, the constitutional shop-window and demagogic manoeuvres could hardly hoodwink a highly combative and most politically minded people.

The only chance left for US domination (even though disguised under a "national government", lay in the systematic suppression of all patriotic and revolutionary movement; the only chance of survival for a feudal rule was the abolition of all democratic reforms achieved in the first resistance and the crushing of all opposition.

The overwhelming majority of the people got involved little by little in a daily multifarious struggle against US rule, stifling of all democratic liberties, land grabbing by feudalists, sabotage of the Geneva agreements and perpetuation of the partition of the country.

A grim battle was waged in the countryside for land ownership and for freedom; in urban centres, workers had to defend the level of their wages, TU rights and political liberties; and the intelligentsia had to fight for preservation of the national culture. In the highlands, the ethnic minorities vigorously set their faces against the return of discriminatory practices; the various religious organiza-

tions rose up to defend their freedom against an administration which obviously pursued a policy of religious discrimination.

Each inhabitant, each social class, each group had to rise up to fight against a ferocious regime.

At one moment or another each of them was caught on the horns of a dilemma: either surrender and serve as a tool for an inhuman regime, betray his fellow countrymen and his most sacred ideals, or rise up and wage a more and more stubborn struggle. The South Vietnamese people plunged for the second choice. Little by little a vast national and popular front was licked into shape, whose size and solidity could withstand fierce repression. The more intensified the repression by the US Diem regime, the more stubborn the resistance. And finally the repression grew into a real unilateral war waged by sizeable army and police units.

By 1959, the purely political resistance — meetings, petitions, demonstrations, strikes, delegations — had proved inadequate in face of

an enemy who did not flinch from any means. Tens of thousands of people were murdered, hundreds of thousands of others jailed or deported; all those who had directly or indirectly taken part in the first resistance war, those who demanded implementation of the Geneva agreements; national reunification, reestablishment of normal relations with the North were without exception, "Viet Cong". Everyone without exception, even (puppet) ministers, was at the mercy of a denunciation of an unfounded accusation and ran the risk of being tortured to death, executed without trial or deported for life.

For most of the people, the alternative was no more to fight or to resign oneself to one's fate but to fight unarmed and then face extermination or to take up arms. The South Vietnamese did not let themselves taken to the slaughter-house; they flew to arms. The wicked thugs, the most sanguinary US placemen were punished, the Diem administration was shattered at the base (i.e. village level), while

(Continued page 4)

Nixon's Obduracy and Deception

A COMMENTARY BY NHAN DAN, DEC. 11, 1966

At this December 8 press conference, Mr. Nixon dealt at length with US policy in Viet Nam. He tried to plead for his policy on three questions now commanding public attention: the plan to "Vietnamize" the war, the US attitude at the Paris Conference and the crimes perpetrated by US troops in South Viet Nam.

The US President boasted that thanks to his "Vietnamization" plan, the war in Viet Nam "will come to a conclusion."

Such statements only had one purpose: to divert attention from the US's belated and aggressive policy in Viet Nam, pointing out that Nixon's plan to "Vietnamize" the war is but a piece of deception. His most recent pronouncements proved that he did not heed sober-minded opinion in the United States and the rest of the world, and still tried to drag out the war, clung to South Viet Nam and the stodge administration there and prolong the partition of Viet Nam.

However, serious his arguments may be, Nixon cannot make people believe in his so-called "goodwill" or "Vietnamization" plan. In fact, the latter aims not at ending the war, but at using Vietnamese to fight Vietnamese, Nixon's drop-by-drop

troop reductions, the unfeasible time-table for the "withdrawal of all American combat troops" and the attached to such a withdrawal are indicative of the deceitful character of the "Vietnamization" scheme. According to presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler, quoted by UPI on December 10, once Nixon's withdrawal program is completed, there will still remain in South Viet Nam 17,000 US troops.

CONCERNING the Paris Conference, Nixon dismissed the Vietnamese proposals as "frivolous," and claimed that he was "waiting for a serious proposal."

But, how could Nixon make black white? Public opinion in various countries including the United States has approved and supported the principled and sound position enunciated in the two-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Public opinion has also once again strongly attacked the US position shown in its refusal to end its aggression, its claim for a premium for the withdrawal of US troops and for the right for the Thieu-Ky traitorous administration to hold general elections under the gunpoint of over one million US, puppet and satellite troops.

The US scheme to block the progress of the Paris Conference has been once more exposed through the fact that Nixon recently accepted the resignation of both the head and deputy-head of the US delegation to the Paris Conference and since then, had not named their successors. It was recently declared from the side of the RSVN PRG that if the US agreed to withdraw all its troops over a period of six months, measures to ensure the US troops' security during their withdrawal could be discussed. This is a constructive idea derived from the ten-point solution and aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam question on the basis of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights.

Nixon's persistent demand for "mutual troop withdrawals" only exposes the US's obduracy.

At his press conference, Nixon was assailed by pressmen's queries on the Son My massacre. In face of undeniable facts, Nixon had to acknowledge the slaughter of civilians in Son My but alleged that this was only "an isolated incident." More flagrant still, Nixon boasted that the US aggressor troop had "built" a large number of schools, churches and pagodas for the South Vietnamese people (!). These are typical utterances of a man who considers the US criminal aggressive war in Viet Nam "one of America's finest hours."

But Nixon can by no way deny the monstrous crimes committed by the US in Viet Nam. Besides the Son My massacre, are all the mass slaughters of civilians by US and puppet troops in Kong H'ring, Ba Lang, Hung Binh, Huoi Conlor, Tay Ninh, Tay Duc, "isolated incidents"? Are the repeated B-52 carpet-bombings, sprayings of noxious chemicals and terrorist operations in various districts and hamlets in South Viet Nam "isolated acts"? People in the world will not allow Nixon's whitewashing his crimes. All the massacres of civilians in South Viet Nam are inevitable sequels of the US aggressive war and its unjust and brutal character. The main responsibility for such flagrant crimes is that of the US imperialists and Nixon himself.

PRG commented that there was nothing new in Nixon's views. As for the American people, they have answered Nixon with concrete deeds. On December 9, 5,000 people in New York gathered at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel where Nixon was attending a dinner to protest against the US aggression in Viet Nam. The more obstinate he is, the heavier setbacks on the Viet Nam battlefield and the greater opposition from the progressive people in the United States and the rest of the world Nixon will meet with.

MINISTER Xuan Thi Binh, head of the delegation of the DRVN Government, stayed away from the 46th session of the Paris Conference in protest against the Nixon administration's deliberate downgrading of the Conference, by not appointing a leader to the US delegation after Cabot Lodge's resignation, while laying stress on its "Vietnamization" policy.

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, attended the session and severely criticized the aggressive and neo-colonialist policy of the Nixon administration which was again clearly reaffirmed at Nixon's press conference on December 8, 1966. She recalled the statement of

Meanwhile the US is continuing the DRVN aggression, to encroach upon the sovereignty, and threaten the security of the DRVN, stepping up its "special war" in Laos and carrying on acts of aggression and provocation against the Kingdom of Cambodia. The aircraft have bombed almost all the liberated zones under the control of the Laotian patriotic forces. Recently, hundreds of US planes flown from Thailand daily carried out fierce bombings of the northern part of Laos. The permanent Cambodian representative at the United Nations on December 8, 1966, stated in a statement that its Saigon lackeys had 7,175 times violated the territory of Cambodia, concerning the Nixon administration.

46th Plenary Session of Paris Conference on Viet Nam (Dec. 11, 1966)

Mr. HA VAN LAU: "The Nixon Administration Has Deliberately Downgraded the Conference"

The RSVN PRG delegation that if the US declared the total and unconditional withdrawal from South Viet Nam of its troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the US camp within a 6-month period, then the parties would discuss the question of the withdrawal of US troops and troops of the other foreign countries in the US camp, as well as the question of ensuring safety for such troop withdrawals.

Speaking on behalf of the DRVN Government delegation, Ambassador Ha Van Lau voiced his full approval and support for the statement of the PRG delegation. He denounced the US authorities' persistence of their aggression in Viet Nam in order to impose neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam and prolong the division of Viet Nam through the "Vietnamization" of the war and "negotiation from strength." What Nixon declared at his December 8 press conference was simply aimed at concretizing the policy of war in relation to the Viet Nam problem, already put forth in his November 3 address. Nixon asserted that the "Vietnamization program" could serve the Viet Nam war to a conclusion "regardless of what happens at the bargaining table." But "Vietnamization" only means prolongation of the US criminal war in South Viet Nam and military occupation by American combat troops by puppet troops but did not deal with the complete withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam.

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Meeting of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee held in 1955 set the line and task of the Viet Nam medical branch as follows: "To serve the workers, the peasants and chronic masses, production and national defense; to take prevention of diseases as the main task while coordinating it with the treatment of diseases, to combine the use of Western and Eastern medicines in prevention, treatment, production of drugs, training of cadres and scientific research; to follow the party's guidance and the mass line."

Applying this line and guiding principle of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, in ten years of peace the health department has solved fundamental problems. Following are some examples as regards the development and consolidation of the grass-root medical network: There was no medical station at the village level under the French rule. However, in 1954 nearly all villages in North Viet Nam had an infirmary equipped to deal with common diseases and staffed by from 2 to 4 medical workers. This led to a mention of thousands of sanitarians attached to the co-ops with the help of higher level hospitals.

The system of ever-expanding district and provincial hospitals has helped rapidly and satisfactorily deal with emergencies both in surgery and obstetrics. In 1964, only 27 per cent of districts in North Viet Nam had their own hospitals (the remainder had only medical stations), but in 1966 all districts had their hospitals with doctors in charge of main wards and from 50 to 50 beds. Each province had one or two full-fledged polyclinics with from 200 to 300 beds built in safe areas.

The medical network to serve the workers was also strengthened during the war years. In 1968 the number of hospitals and sanatoriums for workers rose 11 times as compared with 1958. In 1958 there was a physician for 25,000 workers, but in 1968 there was one for 200.

Despite the war, drug-manufacture also developed. Between 1964 and 1968, 17 more drug-factories were built for provinces, thus satisfying the bulk of the requirements in prevention and cure of diseases, and in first-aid care for the people.

Together with this organizational development, the Vietnamese medical branch paid special attention to medical research. To solve the

THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

UNDER the colonial and feudal rule, our people were prey to many diseases. Almost every year epidemics of cholera, ankylostomiasis, typhoid fever or poliomyelitis, etc. took a toll of thousands of lives. Chronic social diseases like TB, plague, malaria, syphilis, gonorrhea were widespread. Infant mortality rate was alarmingly high, especially in the countryside and the mountains. There were in the whole country only 47 dispensaries and 9 maternity homes, most of which in the towns, and one physician for 180,000 people. According to the statistics of the colonialists, in 1938 the general death rate was 26 per cent, one of the highest in the world. Post-natal mortality rate was also very high, up to 30 or even 40 per cent in some places.

Following the triumph of the August Revolution, twenty days after the setting up of people's power, our Southern fellow-countrymen had to stand up against the French colonialists' aggression, and one year after the resistance war spread to the whole country. Overcoming countless difficulties, our medical branch managed to lead the armed forces and the people in the liberated zone in good health. Despite the destruction wrought by the enemy aviation, many centres were built to treat patients, produce drugs and vaccines, and many medical and pharmaceutical workers were trained to meet the requirements of the resistance war. A remarkable achievement during the nine years of fighting was the successful combat against epidemics in the liberated zone and guerrilla bases.

After the complete liberation of North Viet Nam (early 1955) the DRVN health service were faced with many great difficulties. Nine years of patriotic struggle and eighty years of foreign domination had considerably impaired the people's health, especially in the former occupied territories. The medical network was almost non-existent, save in the big towns and in the resistance zone. And even in the towns the French colonialists had destroyed nearly all medical facilities from apparatuses to hospital beds, before withdrawing. There were only 4,000 beds for the whole North Viet Nam. As for the medical staff we had only 100 doctors, 200 assistant doctors, and over 2,000 nurses, roughly the personnel of a province today.

To preserve and improve the people's health, the

difficulties at home a service application of foreign medicine is insufficient; one must adapt modern scientific achievements abroad to Viet Nam's conditions, base oneself on Viet Nam's resources to find efficient, simple and cheap means to prevent and treat diseases, suited to Viet Nam's economic conditions and equipment. For example, intradermal injection used in mass vaccination studied for a long time abroad was again studied in Viet Nam and widely administered in injections to prevent typhoid fever, cholera, tetanus, diphtheria. The anti-TB vaccine scored well out of our people's active contribution and our medical workers' tireless dedication from the grassroots upwards.

While performing their heavy duty, the Vietnamese people and medical workers

political awareness. It still requires a long time to be achieved for it needs a technical effort.

However, the realities of the past 24 years and especially of the years of resistance against the US imperialists' war of destruction have shown that the time and task of preserving the people's health of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and the Viet Nam Democratic Republic Government are perfectly justified.

We are still not free from mistakes due to our inexperience, but the achievements scored spell out our people's active contribution and our medical workers' tireless dedication from the grassroots upwards.

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HEALTH WORK IN THE DRVN

Dr. NGUYEN VAN MUONG
Minister of Public Health

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An assistant-doctor in Hong Van Thu village (Huong, suburbs) at work.

many diseases. This is in line with biology, a new trend in medicine to use a microbe innocuous for the fraternal socialist countries and friends the world over. We feel boundless gratitude to medical delegations from the friendly countries for having brought to our medical branch their warm friendship and proletarian internationalist spirit. With the determination of our entire people to carry out beloved President Ho Chi Minh's last instruction, with the help of the fraternal socialist countries and progressive mankind, the Vietnamese people are set on pushing ahead their resistance against US aggression for national salvation, whatever the difficulties they may encounter, with firm belief in the US imperialists' eventual defeat and their own final victory.

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TO THE READER
We are aware that there is no room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

9th Founding Anniversary of South Vietnam NFL

DECEMBER 20, 1960

DECEMBER 20, 1969

FROM THE SOUTH VIET NAM NFL TO THE PRG

SOUTH VIET NAM

A Free Village

(Continued from page 1)

villages, then whole areas were freed from Diem's grip—a free zone made its appearance in which the people organized themselves to carry on the struggle and build a new society.

The tussle required then coordinated actions, a unified direction, the proclamation of clear-cut objectives on the national and international planes. On December 20, 1960, the *South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation* was established, which did not start from scratch, but gathered various organizations, groups and personalities who during many years had put up an active and effective struggle.



A guerrilla artillery unit

SOON the NFL laid down its policy in clear and concise terms: liberation of the country from US domination, overthrow of the pro-US puppet government, formation of a democratic coalition government, ultimate peaceful reunification of the country, a foreign policy of peace and neutrality.

The American reacted violently. 25,000 US "advisors" took over the command of the half a million strong puppet army; up-to-date weapons, including chemicals, were rushed in by the US to experiment a new form of warfare, the "special war," newly elaborated by Washington strategists. For four years, from 1961 to 1964, warplanes and helicopters released their loads of bombs and noxious chemicals on the countryside; swamps were stepped up in all areas followed by mass massacres, and atrocious tortures; thousands of villages were razed or burned down and their inhabitants penned up in "strategic villages". In urban centres, the repression of all social strata was intensified.

As the US strategy is to "scoop out" the water to catch the fish, that is to control the whole people in order to wipe out revolutionary elements and organizations, it is the entire people, and chiefly in rural areas, who were directly in danger.

The major problem for the NFL was to devise a judicious political and military line and forms of organization in order to cope successfully with that

counter offensive of the US. The "people's war"—which closely combines political and armed struggle, an armed struggle waged simultaneously by local, regional and regular forces, with rudimentary and modern weapons, in rural areas, mountain areas and urban centres—ended in a victory over the US-Diem war machine. Diem was toppled in 1969, and the puppet army suffered its most crushing reverses in 1969 and 1965, while thousands of strategic hamlets were destroyed by the inhabitants. The free areas, where people's self-managing committees took charge of the local administration and social organization of economic and social

FROM June 6 to 8, 1960, a People's Representatives' Congress, held under the auspices of the NFL and ANDPF, decided the formation of a Provisional Revolutionary Government and a great US consultative body called Advisory Council. The government was headed by Huynh Tan Phat, NFL Vice-President; Lawyer Nguyen Hau Tho, President of the CC of the NFL, was appointed President of the Advisory Council; Lawyer Trinh Dinh Thao, President of the ANDPF, its Vice-President. From now on, the PRG has assumed the responsibilities held so far by the NFL Central Committee.

The emergence of the PRG marked a new stage in South Viet Nam revolution. After fifteen years' revolutionary resistance against a ferocious and powerful enemy, the South Vietnamese successfully created for the first a national popular front rallying in a grim battle all the living forces of the country, then in setting up on this basis a *de jure* and *de facto* revolutionary government which stems from the people and serves the people.

It is a government which is backed by broad segments of the people, possessed of strong political and administrative structures and an army with a high combative and technical standard. It is also a government which has been able, despite all the havoc wrought by US bombs, napalm and chemicals, to carry out important economic, administrative, cultural, natural and handicraft production, education, the health service and cultural life on vast areas of the country. Even in enemy-controlled towns and cities, large sections of the population sympathize and co-operate with the PRG and obey its orders.

life, eventually covered two-thirds of the territory.

At the end of 1964, it was clear that the NFL was not a simple "maquis" but an organization having a broad popular basis and an efficient political, military and administrative structure solidly implanted in the masses. Internationally, since 1965, it has set up representations in many countries.

In order to ward off disaster, Washington had to commit US forces to direct combat task and engage in an adventurous war escalation by bombing indiscriminately the DRVN, an independent socialist country. The NFL came out victorious of this new trial. Far from being crushed by the US huge war machine, the NFL armed forces and the South Vietnamese were able to bring the people's war to a very high degree and apply appropriate tactics, methods and techniques. One after the other, the most up-to-date weapons of the US have fizzled out. The 1967-70 general offensive radically tipped the balance of forces in favour of the NFL which, through this display of force, decisively demonstrated its resolute, tenaciousness.

In urban centres, US occupation—and its atrocities stirred up the social classes which so far had virtually kept aloof from the struggle. The Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces (ANDPF) was born, a new political ally created and a new advance made in the broadening of the national front.

SOME HISTORIC NFL DOCUMENTS

- DECEMBER 20, 1960 (at its founding):
Manifesto and 10-point Programme: To overthrow the disguised colonial regime of the US imperialists and the dictatorial Ngo Dinh Diem administration—task of the US, form a national democratic coalition administration, achieve independence and democracy, better living conditions for the people, peace and neutrality and ultimate national peaceful reunification.
- JANUARY 1962 (when the US intensified its special war):
Urgent solution proposed: The US must put an end to its acts of aggression and withdraw its troops and advisers; the Saigon administration must stop the killing and terror against the people, re-establish peace, guarantee order and security, enforce democratic liberties, hold free elections to a National Assembly, draft a democratic constitution and put an end to the state of emergency.
- JULY 20, 1962:
Some proposals for national salvation: Appeal to those who, having collaborated with the Americans and worked against the revolution, now want to mend their ways and work for national salvation. This appeal also proposes that the US cease its policy and acts of aggression, that the parties concerned in South Viet Nam end the hostilities, re-establish peace and security, and form a national coalition government comprising various factions of different political leanings, that a policy of peace and neutrality be carried out, and that an international accord be signed to guarantee the independence, unity and territorial integrity (of Viet Nam).
- NOVEMBER 8, 1963 (After the overthrow of Ngo Dinh Diem):
Appeal: To completely abolish the dictatorial regime and set up without delay a democratic regime. To put an end to US aggression and establish a body comprising the parties concerned for the settlement of the country's major problems.
- MAY 22, 1965 (when the US escalated its war in South Viet Nam to the North):
Five-point statement: Our sworn enemy is aggressive US imperialism. The people of South Viet Nam are resolved to drive out the US aggressors and groups to put the NFL, the North and make South Viet Nam an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral state, and eventually achieve the reunification of the country. Appeal to the progressive world for an aid in weapons and other means.
- AUGUST 1967:
Political Programme: Programme of national union, resistance until final victory and national construction. Appeal to all patriotic individuals and groups to join the NFL. Those who do not want to adhere to the NFL may take joint actions with the latter against the common enemy.
- NOVEMBER 3, 1968 (When the Johnson Administration forced to halt the bombing of North Viet Nam and accept the 4-party Conference in Paris):
Declaration: Determination to fight until final victory along with agreement to take part in the 4-party Paris Conference in search of a solution to the Viet Nam issue.
- MAY 8, 1969:
Ten-point overall solution: Re-affirmation of the inalienable fundamental national rights and right to self-defence of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people; The US Government must withdraw all US troops and those of the countries in the US camp without laying down any condition whatsoever; the problem of Vietnamese forces in South Viet Nam will be settled by the Vietnamese parties among themselves. Formation of a provisional coalition government through consultations among political groups which stand for independence, peace and neutrality, on the basis of equality, democracy and mutual respect.

by those who have peace and progress at heart, has greatly contributed to the strengthening of the power and prestige of the South Vietnamese resistance. The unstinted support given by the North Vietnamese, as the whole, to their Southern fellow-countrymen, has made it possible for this resistance to lean on a solid and rock-like rear-base bound to the fighting forces at the front by unbreakable blood ties and a multi-millenary history.

NOW, nine years after the setting up of the NFL and several months after that of the PRG, the outcome of the struggle put up by the South Vietnamese people since fifteen years, is more than ever apparent. Nixon's desperate efforts to prolong the war and the savage crimes perpetrated by American troops can hardly alter the course of an inevitable historical event. The Vietnamese people in their revolt, from North to South, are resolved to fight till final victory.

EDITOR'S NOTE.— Since Spring 1968 dramatic general offensives and uprisings, the liberated zone of South Viet Nam has been quickly expanding in area as well as population. Revolutionary rule has been established in four-fifths of the territory where the people have won back their right as masters of their destiny at the cost of immense sacrifices and a heroism which commands the admiration of all honest men and women in the world. The foremost attempts of the Americans to reconquer

these free lands have ever since come to a complete flop. Even in areas where they managed to re-plant a military garrison, the puppet power remains just a vain word, only at a stone's throw of the enemy's power.

In order to give our readers an idea of the life in those areas where runs the writ of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, we print herewith a story from a local paper in the free zone of South Viet Nam.

I came to H.T. on a late autumn afternoon. The day was drawing to its end and the rain had stopped. There was a heavy traffic and bustle on village lanes. Some were going to a peasant's meeting, others to an ABC class for adults. Young rifle-carrying militia men and women were carrying their neck targets to an open ground for practice. From some distance a loud-speaker announced the villagers that tomorrow they were to build more fortifications and combat trenches. The children, for their part, were merrily singing in the school yard. From the other side of the highway came the rumbling of cannon. It was the "preventive" shelling from the enemy posts in N.Y. and B.A.

Walking by my side were a middle-aged woman called Nam, Chairman of the village People's Revolutionary Committee (administrative organ of the revolutionary power) and a young man named Thong, deputy commander of the militia-guerrilla company, took me to see the outlines of the "strategic hamlet" and told me about the process of building the "fighting village" over the past two years. We threaded our way through a mass of combat trenches, climbed over the fortifications and crossed communication trenches of all kinds leading from one hamlet to another. Had it not been for Thong, I would have lost my way in this labyrinth. I asked my guide, "What is the total length of the communication trenches in the village?" "About 80 kilometres," he replied. "The village has a depth of 200 metres," Thong said. The figure spoke for itself. After visiting one hamlet we went to another, stepping at a suit open ground littered with broken tiles and bricks which had been completely buried the sands of flood giant old trees. My guide told me:

Deported to Paulo Condore 4:
Killed: 35.
The enemy also robbed too "moss" of ricefield and so "moss" of garden, levelled all the graves in the village of which no trace remained.

The grim figures were written in black letters and framed also in black. Below was an inscription in big letters: "This blood debt shall be repaid."

Thong lighted a cigarette, looked round the whole site and said in a firm and exciting voice:

"That's so, comrades. We had sworn to square the accounts with them. And we rose up to a man, the whole of H.T. village rose up as one man and destroyed the strategic hamlets and won back the right to be masters of their own land on February 8, 1968. At the time we had only a few carbines and rifles and very little ammunition. People carried with them sticks, hoes and spades in the intervention. Today we already have a fairly well-equipped company of militia and guerrillas. In two years, the US and puppet armies have mounted actions either with main force units or commander strike units against our village. Nearly 500 enemy troops have been put out of action, hundreds of them by spike traps laid by old mothers and children."

We moved on along the communication trenches and dropped in on Mr. Tho, Chairman of the Liberation Parents' Association. When we stepped in, he was bending over a large map of fields stretched on a table and was marking with his pencil places where scoops, water wheels and mechanical pumps were to be installed to irrigate the rice and sugar cane fields along T. river. I enquired about the output of rice and sugar in the village five years after liberation. Mr. Tho answered with obvious delight:

"The days when our paddy and sugar cane lay scorched in the fields as in the years 1960-1963 have definitely gone. In the last two crops (1968-1969) there was a notable rise in crop output thanks to the mutual aid arrangements. We no longer fear drought for our rice and sugar. Thanks to the installation of a system of water-propelled scoops, water-wheels and mechanical pumps, the people's fields are irrigated and re-established land to the farmers. The tyrannical landlords packed their things and went in the robe of their masters right after the villagers ended the strategic hamlet." He handed me a record which he had been keeping since the year before, showing the people's contributions to the resistance. The bills said:

Returned to incapacity: 378 people;
Imprisoned at the province jail: 60;

— Paddy contributed to the army.

supporting fund: 100 tons.
Spending on the building of schools and maternity homes, reckoned in terms of paddy: 30 tons.

As I totted down the figures in my note-book, he added, rather apologetically: "Look, that's not enough indeed compared with what the revolution has brought to us, and with the needs of the resistance. We believe we can do much more in this harvest."

Our conversation was in progress when three sons of Mr. Tho came back from a singing and dancing rehearsal at their children's group. I asked one of them, the youngest one who Mr. Tho told me was in the first form.

"Do you have any elementary school here in the village?" The boy hastened to reply: "The head-master said we should have one next year. By the way, do you know how many schools our village has now?" The question took me completely off guard since I had hardly time to give any thought to the educational achievements. Fortunately, Mrs. Nam took up the hook by declaring with unaccompanied pride: "There are 15 schools in all with more than 1000 pupils. That's something to be proud of, isn't it?"

After telling leave of Mr. Tho we continued our visit, moving along the communication trenches. Walking in this heavily populated area of H.T., September, we met and talked with Tho, Quyen, Nhat, Viet and Teacher. These in the village People's Revolutionary Committee and National Front for Liberation Committee, many young friends and militia units. Looking at the Misses Viet, Hoa and Giang, and the young men Chich, all of them members of the local Revolutionary Youth Union. Each had a peculiar trait and character of his own and all were loved by the people like members of their own families. Looking at the moonlight dancing on their own muscled and the shining black hair of the young and robust militia units, weeping bitterly from one hamlet to another along the communication trenches before reaching the highway, looking at them gathering beneath a streamer spanning the village gate with the big red-lettered inscriptions: "Resolved to defend revolutionary power!" looking at the gun muscled trained at the moving targets at the end of the field, I realized deeply what was in the hearts of these young men. A happy and free life had returned to H.T. village completely rid of enemy.

MINH PHUC

Moscow Meeting of Socialist Countries' Party and State Leaders

New Manifestation of Friendship and Militant Solidarity with Fighting Viet Nam

THE meeting of Party and State leaders of the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia, held in Moscow on December 3 and 4, once again reaffirmed the signatories' position and determination to defend peace and security in Europe and the world, against the aggressive, war-seeking and sabotage manoeuvres of US-led imperialists, against the policy of West German reactionaries who lay claim to the monopoly of representing the whole of Germany and scheme to revive the frontiers of the European socialist countries. The unity of mind among the above-mentioned socialist countries on these problems constitutes an important contribution to the struggle of the peoples of Europe and the rest of the world for peace and security.

At the Moscow meeting, the Party and State leaders of the socialist countries issued a statement in which they unanimously condemned the US war of aggression in Viet Nam and supported the Vietnamese people's effort for independence and freedom.

They strongly protested against the US government's continued war of aggression and US odious crimes against the Vietnamese people. They resolutely denounced Washington's odious stance as can be seen in its policy of "Vietnamizing the war" which, in fact, prolongs it, and in its denial of the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, which attitude has blocked the progress of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

In the statement, they again warmly supported the sensible position expounded in the 10-point overall solution advanced by the South Viet Nam NLF, and the RVN Provisional Revolutionary Government for the settlement of the Viet Nam problem. They pointed out that Washington's

aggressive policy and obduracy would certainly meet with ever firmer opposition from the South Vietnamese armed forces and people and ever stronger protest from the world's peoples, and that the US scheme to prolong the war was doomed to failure.

In their statement, they declared that, proceeding from the principles of proletarian internationalism and from their attachment to the peace, independence and freedom of the nations, they would continue to give maximum assistance to the legitimate resistance of the Vietnamese people until the US war of aggression in Viet Nam was ended, and that the Vietnamese people who were fighting for a good cause were bound to win.

The statement on the Viet Nam issue of the recent meeting of the Party and State leaders of the above-mentioned socialist countries constituted a new manifestation of the intimate friendship and profound militant solidarity between the Vietnamese people and the peoples of the brotherly countries fighting for the same ideal, for the triumph of socialism, for national independence, democracy and peace. Once again, this statement affirmed the determination of the Parties, governments and peoples of the socialist countries to stand constantly by the side of the Vietnamese people, and give them firm support and assistance in their struggle against the US aggressors until complete victory. Together with the newly-signed agreements on economic and military aid to Viet Nam for 1970, this statement spelled out the brotherly countries' firm support and great assistance for the Vietnamese people.

At present, the Nixon administration is stepping up its military activities in South Viet Nam and commit-

ting monstrous crimes against the local people. At the same time, it is carrying out its "Vietnamization" of the war which, in fact, will drag it out and pit Vietnamese against Vietnamese. This perversity of Washington has brought to a deadlock the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

In such a situation, the statement of the meeting of the above-mentioned socialist countries constitutes a strong and resolute condemnation of the Nixon administration's war-like policy and sinister designs. It denounces to the world the aggressive, ultra-reactionary and bellicose nature of the US imperialists.

The Vietnamese people sincerely thank the Parties, governments and people of the brotherly socialist countries for this precious support and assistance.

WITH its heavy attacks on the political, military and diplomatic fronts, SEATO has in fact disintegrated and failed in its task as an aggressive bloc. The US imperialists are scheming to use ASEAN for counter-revolutionary purposes in this area, in the first place, to serve their criminal war of aggression in South Viet Nam.

Since August 1969, they have left no stone unturned to turn ASEAN into an alliance under the signboard of a regional organization for economic, cultural and social co-operation, and at the same time tried hard to link ASEAN with other US blocs in this area, in an effort to create a so-called "collective security system" in South-East Asia and the Pacific, essentially designed to use

SON MY SLAYING DENOUNCED BY DELEGATES TO UN

SPEAKING at a session of the UN Committee of Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs on December 3, Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon condemned the Son My slaughter perpetrated by the US aggressors in South Viet Nam, a UN/A correspondent in Havana reported. He said that the main responsibility for this massacre was that of the US government and the US political and military bosses.

After likening the US aggressors to the Hitlerite fascists, the Cuban delegate said:

"The Cuban delegation has no intention to raise the Viet Nam question at the US as it is quite clear to everyone that this organization has no right to interfere in this affair. However, when dealing with war crimes, how could one overlook the heinous crimes of the US troops against the Vietnamese people? When dealing with genocidal crimes, how could one overlook US policy of systematic extermination of civilians in South Viet Nam, the barbarous bombing and destruction of villages and towns south and north of the 17th parallel,

"We must stress the positive character of the reaction by US public opinion which finally realizes that there has not been only one Son My and that the long list of horrors and crimes is the inevitable sequel of the US unjust war in Viet Nam."

ASEAN, A U.S. Counter-Revolutionary Tool

Asians to sway Asians.

Some ASEAN member countries, such as Thailand and the Philippines, are stooges of the US. They are toying the US live and supporting the US and Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet administration's attempt to suppress the legitimate struggle of the Vietnamese people for genuine independence and peace. These countries have allowed the US imperialists to establish naval and air bases for their territory for raids over North Viet Nam. Moreover, Thailand and the Philippines have chipped in mercenary troops in the aggression against South Vietnamese. This barbaric can fool nobody. The Vietnamese people and the people of South-East Asia have seen through their reactionary nature and are condemning and opposing them.

They hope to smokescreen their shameful undertaking by appealing the removal about inviting observers from the DRVN and the RVN Provisional Revolutionary Government to attend the forthcoming ASEAN ministerial meeting scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur. This barbaric can fool nobody. The Vietnamese people and the people of South-East Asia have seen through their reactionary nature and are condemning and opposing them.

In 1962, when still a 19-year-old fighter, Sinh already was reputed as a "gun addict" who applied himself very assiduously to training. One month after enlisting, Sinh already was rated "A" in target practice, and "outstanding" in his unit in live bullet shooting.

In all the 11 times when he was wounded, Sinh insisted on staying in the field to go on fighting. At the hospital before he completely recovered, Sinh would return to his unit. Before his wounds were healed, he wanted to be present in all the engagements. He was wholly dedicated to the fighting because to him, so long as the Yankee aggressors remain in the country, to drive them out is not only his supreme duty and aspiration but also his greatest joy and raison d'être.

In combat, Sinh distinguished himself by the following traits: wherever he engaged the enemy, he did it at close quarters and made very effective deep thrusts, overpowering the enemy from the very outset so that they had no time to react. He used to use plastic charge and hand grenades.

He often says that fighting at close quarters, making quick and repeated attacks deep into enemy lines in spite of two smarting wounds, Sinh decided to destroy the post before dawn. He crawled up and ordered his men to knock out one group of enemy troops after another with grenades and tank-busters.

Shortly before dawn, with new reinforcements coming in, the enemy launched a fierce counter-attack. Sinh was wounded a third time, the bullet passing through his neck and knocking him unconscious. When he came to, Sinh saw that he had been carefully bandaged. He shouted aloud to reassure his men: "Sinh can fight on!" Then picking up his carbine and leaning on the dead body of a friend, he fired on the retreating adverse soldiers. At that

moment, machinegunner Nguyen Duc Nghia was grievously wounded. Sinh took his comrade's gun and let off a full burst. A bazooka gunner collapsed, hit by an enemy bullet. Sinh snatched his tank-buster and training the sight on a group of enemies, pressed the trigger. The enemy fell back every time they came up against the deadly salvos of his gun. Eight times they charged and eight times they were repelled by Sinh and his fellow fighters.

Though dead tired, Sinh could not make up his mind to rest because the enemy was still lurking somewhere before him. Leaving against a stump, Sinh gave effective cover fire for the advancing PLAF fighters.

Nguyen Duc Nghia, later honored Hero of the PLAF, recalled, "I can still picture Le Xuan Sinh, bare-chested and with bandages all over his body, hurling grenades, firing his carbine, and even placing a machinegun on a dead enemy to spray with his murderous fire the fleeing survivors."

Once Sinh's unit came to the plain. The men stopped at a small hamlet bordering on a field. It was windy and the sky was overcast. The water rice-paddies stretched as far as the eye could see. Sinh's platoon was assigned the job of breaking into a US cantonment and destroying a mortar site.

At two a.m. the PLAF artillery opened, opening the battle. Sinh ordered his bazooka men to strike at the row of tents, which was set ablaze. The GIs screamed frantically. Not wasting a second, Sinh sprang forth, followed by his platoon. Before the Americans knew where they were, Sinh and his platoon were already at the second entrance. He motioned his comrades to lie down just as the Americans tossed a hail of grenades out. Sinh blazed away at the bamboo grove and shouted his men to hurl grenades,

and has taken part in more than fifty battles, each of them with outstanding results. He is deputy battalion commander. Le Xuan Sinh. He alone wiped out 125 enemy troops, was 11 times wounded, and every time refused to leave the field, has been decorated a "Valiant Fighter" Order and many times awarded the honorable title of "Valiant Fighter against the US Aggressors."

As dawn was breaking, the Americans got more reinforcements and mounted a new counter-attack. Sinh and his unit successfully broke live assaults of the enemy. Under his effective cover fire, the wounded were evacuated. The Americans, assuming that the PLAF were not numerous, went after them.

After telling Dien and another fighter to cover the evacuation of the wounded, Sinh turned back and stopped short the pugnacious enemy soldiers. A hail of murderous machinegun fire. The Americans returned fire, then rushed up in an attempt to capture him. But Sinh firmly stood his ground, hurling back all their assaults using his carbine, machinegun, bazooka and also hand grenades. However, the Americans called for another chance. Sinh had already secured a vantage position and waited for the enemy came very near before pressing the trigger of his tank-buster.

The enemy was dispersed just when another unit of the PLAF stormed in to break the last enemy resistance.

Then he detailed a group of fighters to make a detour and strike at the mortar site. A fierce hand-to-hand combat followed. By that time, Sinh and his unit were already at the center of the encampment. Sinh went to each group of fighters to give them timely instructions. He got the bazooka gunners to wipe out the enemy machinegun nests one by one, then to concentrate their fire on the mortar site, throwing the whole enemy garrison into disorder. The mortars were completely silenced.

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In the Spring 1968 general offensive, Sinh's unit was ordered to make a breach through an "steel gate" in the northwestern sector of Saigon for a PLAF attack. This "steel gate" was a stronghold of a multi-battalion unit of puppet paratroopers stationed along the highway, protected by two strategic hamlets. At that time Sinh was already a company leader. It was decided that his company would penetrate into the "strategic hamlets" and seize control of the portion of road to deal with the enemy there.

One o'clock in the morning, US helicopters circled over the sky, dropping flares that illuminated the whole area. Sinh signed his name as he knew that he led the second platoon into the first "strategic hamlet". Enemy soldiers were sprayed with a hail of bullets in a row of barracks. Sinh beckoned a team to his side and pointing his finger ahead, said to them: "Yes, Lan will wipe out the machinegun at the hamlet border. Under the PLAF banner leader replied: 'Yes!'

Turning to another fighter, Sinh told him: "You, Thuan will knock out the guard beneath the watchtower."

"All right" Thuan answered.

Sinh added: "Don't fire until I give the signal!"

Thereupon, the PLAF artillery blazed into the Tan Son Nhut airfield and the first and second districts. The whole platoon under Sinh sprang into action. The first shells of the bazooka gunners sent the enemy machineguns flying into the air. Then all the main pillboxes were also blotted out one after another.

Sinh led his unit to capture the hamlet. Then, following the soldiers, he and his comrades went after the remnants hiding somewhere in houses and a flat-roofed house the enemy opened up fiercely in the three directions. It was the command post. On Sinh's order, a bazooka gunner sent the house crumbling with a shell, killing the whole enemy command in it.

The survivors of the position fled to the second hamlet. The liberation fighters quickly scattered them. The enemy in this hamlet offered almost no resistance and left behind their weapons and equipment. Having fulfilled his task, Sinh could have stayed there to take some rest and strengthen the defence to provide against a new enemy counter-attack. But Sinh decided not to miss such a rare opportunity. He rushed to take advantage of darkness to strike at a nearby position before the enemy could regroup. In a brief showdown in the courtyard, his suggestion was accepted. He led a platoon out, and asked him, the machinegunner, to follow him. The unit made straight for the highway where several US soldiers were, completely just regrouped. He spotted three soldiers moving toward Sinh and they fired at them from where he was. One of them challenged: "Who goes there?" Sinh replied: "It is we. The enemy was still unaware of his unit's movement, otherwise the men would have fired to him with the greatest calm. 'Me' and asked: 'What company is yours?' One of the soldiers replied, "116A". The others came forward hesitantly. Sinh wanted to lure them into his trap to wipe them out and even to capture some to get information.

But before he could do anything, Han, who thought he had made a mistake, screamed out: "Look out, that's me, Sinh!"

The puppets dashed to the roadside and looked to their heels. Sinh and his men fired after them. The enemy was driven out to the road with the PLAF men attacking from either side. The whole puppet command was knocked out in a matter of minutes.

The day broke. A night of bitter and fruitful fighting had passed. Sinh stretched himself up, went out of the fortifications and took long breaths of the refreshing morning air. The battalion commander came up to him and gave him a cap on his shoulder. It was very clever and imaginative of you to strike first and then wait for the enemy's confusion right at the start."

Listening to his commander's encouraging words, Sinh smiled good-naturedly. He had just received lessons of the past actions and trying to figure out the future fiercer ones.

South Viet Nam

A PEOPLE'S DEPUTY BATTALION FIGHTER, COMMANDER SINH, VICTOR OF OVER 50 BATTLES

EDITOR'S NOTE:—Among the great and all-round successes of the South Viet Nam liberation, the military exploits of the People's Liberation Armed Forces hold a prominent place. For this, they called by some "legendary fighters". On the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of the NLF, we relate to our readers the feats of one of them, who is twenty five years old, has seen seven years of service and has taken part in more than fifty battles, each of them with outstanding results. He is deputy battalion commander. Le Xuan Sinh. He alone wiped out 125 enemy troops, was 11 times wounded, and every time refused to leave the field, has been decorated a "Valiant Fighter" Order and many times awarded the honorable title of "Valiant Fighter against the US Aggressors."

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He often says that fighting at close quarters, making quick and repeated attacks deep into enemy lines in spite of two smarting wounds, Sinh decided to destroy the post before dawn. He crawled up and ordered his men to knock out one group of enemy troops after another with grenades and tank-busters.

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MILITARY OPERATIONS

Three Provincial Capitals and More Than 100 Enemy Military Bases and Positions in the Mekong Delta Hit on the Night of Dec. 3.

- ① Raid on a Police Training Centre in Da Lat: Serious Enemy Losses and Damage.
- ② Two Colonels (One US and One Puppet) and Several Officers Killed in a PLAF-Downed Helicopter.

ON the night of Dec. 2 the PLAF mounted a series of violent attacks in the 3 populous provinces of the Mekong Delta, Gial Phong Press Agency reported.

About 60 km Southwest of Saigon, dozens of enemy positions were hit in the province of My Tho, on the left bank of the Mekong. The provincial capital was subjected to several assaults particularly directed against the HQ of the puppet 7th Division, the divisional military training centre, the HQ of the puppet 6th armoured regiment, the naval base, etc.

On the other bank of the river, in the province of Ben Tre, 150 targets came under fire, especially in the provincial capital and 6 less important urban centres. The PLAF inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in the HQ of a regiment of puppet division 7, the HQ of the province police and so-called "purification" teams, de-

stroyed or decimated 6 companies and 4 platoons of civil guards.

To the West of Saigon, near the Cambodian border, the enemy forces in the province of Kien Tuong were also hard hit on the night of Dec. 2, particularly in Mar. Hoa City and at a military sub-sector headquarters.

At Long Khat, Tuyen Binh sub-sector CP, 200 enemy troops were put out of action in 25 minutes.

The same source reported that 150 adverse soldiers were knocked out during PLAF raids in Cai Lay, a district of My Tho province, on the night of Dec. 4.

The patriots in the Bu Do area, 40 km North of Saigon, on Dec. 2 and Dec. 3 wiped out 235 enemy troops, downed 1 choppers and destroyed 1 armoured cars.

On the other hand, according to Western news agencies, the PLAF kept up their actions in the 3 days ending

Dec. 5, the most important ones were those directed against a police training centre in Da Lat city (350 km Northeast of Saigon, Dec. 7), blotting out at least 13 barrack-buildings, the HQ of the US First Air Cavalry in Phase Vlah (60 km Northeast of Saigon, Dec. 9), an armoured column of the US 25th Infantry Division (some 40 km Northwest of Saigon, Dec. 9), and a position of the American Division near Chu Lai (96 km Southeast of Da Nang). According to the US-puppet Command, 120 of its men were killed or wounded in these operations.

The same source further reported that on Dec. 6, the PLAF brought down a helicopter Southwest of Chu Lai, killing all its passengers including a US colonel, a puppet colonel commanding a tactical zone and several other officers.

On the night of Dec. 2, the PLAF bombarded dozens of targets including Long Binh logistic base, Bien Hoa airbase and Da Nang base.

On Orders from RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government

PLAF To Keep Christmas and New Year 3-Day Truces

IMPLEMENTING the Dec. 2 decision of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the PLAF has issued orders on suspension of military attacks against US, satellite and puppet troops from 7 hours GMT Dec. 24 to 7 hours GMT Dec. 27 and from 7 hours GMT Dec. 30 to 7 hours GMT January 2, 1970.

While the US imperialists and their lackeys are frenziedly stepping up their criminal war of aggression against our country and blocking the progress of the Paris Conference—which only stiffens more than ever the determination of our people to fight till final victory—this measure is a further proof of the PRG humanitarian policy. At the same time the people are exhorted to be vigilant and ready to punish all truce violations by the enemy such as military operations, reconnaissance and espionage, bombardments, spraying of noxious chemicals.

In reply to this measure of the PRG, the US and quislings, through Nguyen Van Thieu's mouth, have cynically declared to halt hostilities only for 24 hours only on each occasion.

SUSPENSION OF PLAF ATTACKS ON FILIPINO TROOPS SINCE DEC. 7

ON Dec. 7 the PLAF command issued another order enabling Filipino troops—whose complete withdrawal from South Vietnam before December 25 had been decided by Manila—to have a chance of going home safe and sound. From that date on, the PLAF will not attack the Filipinos on the condition that the latter observe a withdrawal calendar and pull out routes announced, refrain from hostile and harmful acts against the lives and property of the people, fly their flags and keep from camping and travelling in company with US and puppet troops and other foreign mercenaries in order not to be mistaken for these.

Saigon Press Critical of Puppet Administration over SON MY MASSACRE



Puppet troops taken prisoner at Tra Cao (Tay Ninh)

A Gial Phong press correspondent in Saigon wrote that the press in Saigon had castigated the puppet authorities for attempting to whitewash the Son My massacre of over 500 civilians by GIs in the face of some of its authors' confessions.

Ting Noi Dau Toc (The Voice of the Nation) wrote on Nov. 29: "We beg to ask: Since when has the [puppet] administration been aware of the Quang Ngai [Son My] affair? Is it possible that it only came to know it after its disclosure by Washington? An 'incident', it was claimed. At the beginning we tried to eat the leak, but as files have been piling up and the horror has been taking bigger proportions in the course of

the investigations made in the US, we cannot continue to swallow it despite our good will and we now set our faces against this affirmation."

The Chaah Ito (Highness Way) commented on December 2: "The masses are astonished at the quite incomprehensible lack of responsibility of those who call themselves Vietnamese but deny the Son My massacre. The Vietnamese [puppet] authorities' statements clash with one another and they all deny it. It is the intention to hush up the truth which has urged the directly responsible officials to find an explanation in defiance of reason and conscience. Public opinion is again incensed when it sees the subjectiveness and lie in face of

an offence acknowledged by its perpetrators themselves and wonders how some people can turn a blind eye to a mass murder of their fellow-countrymen and seek suggestions to vindicate themselves and shirk their responsibility. This attitude only stirs up a hornet's nest among public opinion."

"The Son My affair is for the Vietnamese people," Chaah Ito went on, "another lesson which opens their eyes to the existence of those who betray their Fatherland for their selfish interests and have been made so callous by money and ambition that they don't even shed a tear over the death of hundreds of innocents at Son My."